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**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**  
**(Large Entity)**

*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*

Docket No.  
13768.173

Total Pages in this Submission  
5

**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**

Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

**METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR ALLOWING THIRD PARTY CLIENT APPLICATIONS TO INFLUENCE IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGH-LEVEL DOCUMENT COMMANDS**

and invented by:

**Jon B. Avner and Soner F. Terek**

**If a CONTINUATION APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:**

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are:

**Application Elements**

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 29 pages and including the following:
  - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
  - b. ☐ Cross References to Related Applications *(if applicable)*
  - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development *(if applicable)*
  - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix *(if applicable)*
  - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
  - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
  - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings *(if drawings filed)*
  - h. ☒ Detailed Description
  - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
  - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Large Entity)

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## Application Elements (Continued)

3. ☒ Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)
- a. ☒ Formal                      Number of Sheets 4
- b. ☐ Informal                      Number of Sheets \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)                      ☐ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional application only)
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney                      ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,  
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 4b is checked)  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche (Appendix)
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all must be included)
- a. ☐ Paper Copy
- b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

## Accompanying Application Parts

8. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement (when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449                      ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Acknowledgment postcard
14. ☒ Certificate of Mailing
- ☐ First Class    ☒ Express Mail (Specify Label No.): EL 550 340 306 US

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**  
**(Large Entity)**

*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*

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**Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)**

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*

16. ☒ Additional Enclosures *(please identify below):*

Attached sheet with correspondence address

**Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)**

17. ☐ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

**Warning**

***An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.***

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**  
**(Large Entity)**

*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*

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**Fee Calculation and Transmittal**

**CLAIMS AS FILED**

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	26	- 20 =	6	x \$18.00	\$108.00
Indep. Claims	5	- 3 =	2	x \$80.00	\$160.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$710.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose) _____					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$978.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$978.00** to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **23-3178** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).



Signature

ADRIAN J. LEE, Reg. # 42,785



**022913**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Dated:

CC:



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No.: EL 550 340 306 US

Date of Deposit: October 4, 2000

I hereby certify that the enclosed Transmittal Letter (5 pgs. in triplicate); Patent Application (29 pgs); 4 Sheets of Formal Drawings; Declaration, Power of Attorney, & Petition (2pgs); Assignment with Cover Sheet (3 pgs) and Check No. 117863 for \$978.00 for filing in the matter of the Application of MICROSOFT CORPORATION for, "METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR ALLOWING THIRD PARTY CLIENT APPLICATIONS TO INFLUENCE IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGH-LEVEL DOCUMENT COMMANDS ", is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to the United States Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, Box: Patent Application.

Respectfully submitted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 2000.

Dolly Homme  
Dolly Homme

Attorney Docket: 13768.173

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**UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION**

of

Jon Avner

and

Soner Terek

for

**METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR  
ALLOWING THIRD PARTY CLIENT APPLICATIONS TO INFLUENCE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGH-LEVEL DOCUMENT COMMANDS**

U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

WORKMAN, NYDEGGER & SEELEY  
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1 associated with given files, or folders. For each document, there is typically more than one  
2 table that may associated with the document by, for example, describing properties of the  
3 document.

4 A document (e.g., document 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Figure 1) is an identifiable entity from  
5 the viewpoint of applications that use the database management system. For example, a  
6 folder or an item such as an electronic mail message within the folder may be considered to  
7 be a document since they are identified as entities from the viewpoint of the application  
8 that uses the database management system. For example, in the context of electronic  
9 messaging, an application may present folders such as "in-boxes" and "out-boxes" to a  
10 user with corresponding electronic mail messages in the folders. These folders and  
11 electronic mail messages are "documents" from the viewpoint of the application.  
12 Similarly, files and directories within a file system may also be documents from the  
13 viewpoint of the application that uses the database management system. The tables within  
14 the underlying database are not considered to be documents since they are identified  
15 internal to the database management system, and not at the higher level of the application  
16 that uses the database management system.

17 The database application 120 generates high-level document commands (e.g., high-  
18 level command 121) that relate to operations to be performed on a document. Examples of  
19 such document commands might include operations such as, for example, move folder,  
20 move message, delete message, copy folder, copy file, and so forth.

21 Each of these high-level document commands is received by the database engine  
22 130 which implements the high-level document commands by executing a number of table  
23 level commands that result in database tables being updated. Typically, the database  
24 engine would use the disk access module 140 of an operating system to produce the

1 physical control signals necessary to read and write the appropriate sectors in the disk,  
2 each table comprising one or more possibly discontinuous sectors on the disk.

3       Once the high-level document command is implemented, the database management  
4 system may notify other client applications using notification module 150 that the high-  
5 level document command was implemented. Then, the other client applications may  
6 perform a variety of processes in response to that notification. For example, if a new  
7 electronic mail messages is added into a public folder, the other client applications that  
8 have subscribed to that public folder may receive notification of the new electronic mail  
9 message so that they can update there local database to reflect the change, or perhaps  
10 refresh the screen if it is currently displaying the contents of the public folder.

11       In the conventional method, the notification is only dispatched after the high-level  
12 document command is implemented. There is nothing the client application can do to  
13 affect how the high-level document command is implemented, what additional actions are  
14 to be taken in the database at the same time the high-level document command is  
15 implemented, or whether the high-level document command is to be implemented at all.  
16 Therefore, what are desired are methods and systems for allowing more flexibility for a  
17 third party client application to affect how a high-level document command is  
18 implemented in a database.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The principles of the present invention provide for a way for third party client applications to influence how a high-level document command is implemented by a database management system. The database management system is issued a number of high level-document commands which are intended to be implemented in the underlying database. Such high-level document commands include high-level commands that relate to actions to be taken on documents such as folders, files, messages and other entities that are identified at the level of the application that uses the database management system. For example, in electronic messaging applications, one high-level document command may be to add a mail message to a folder.

Unlike conventional database management systems, however, the database management system in accordance with the invention temporarily foregoes implementing the high-level document command in the database. Instead, the database management system identifies any third party client applications that are to be notified when the high-level document command is received. Then, the database management system dispatches a notification. The client application is thus made aware of the notification so that the client application may return back implementation instructions on how to implement the high-level document command. The database management system receives the implementation instructions and follows the instructions in implementing the high-level document command.

For example, the instruction may be for preventing the implementation of the high-level document command altogether. The instruction may also be to change how the high-level document command is implemented. The instruction may even be for implementing one or more high-level document commands in addition to the received high-level

1 document command. Thus, the notified third party client application is given extensive  
2 control over how the high-level document command is implemented.

3 Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the  
4 description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be  
5 learned by the practice of the invention. The features and advantages of the invention may  
6 be realized and obtained by means of the instruments and combinations particularly  
7 pointed out in the appended claims. These and other features of the present invention will  
8 become more fully apparent from the following description and appended claims, or may  
9 be learned by the practice of the invention as set forth hereinafter.

Continued on next page

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1                                    **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

2                    In order to describe the manner in which the above-recited and other advantages  
3 and features of the invention can be obtained, a more particular description of the invention  
4 briefly described above will be rendered by reference to specific embodiments thereof  
5 which are illustrated in the appended drawings. Understanding that these drawings depict  
6 only typical embodiments of the invention and are not therefore to be considered to be  
7 limiting of its scope, the invention will be described and explained with additional  
8 specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings in which:

9                    Figure 1 illustrates a hierarchical view of a database management system in  
10 accordance with the prior art;

11                   Figure 2 illustrates an exemplary system that provides a suitable operating  
12 environment for the present invention;

13                   Figure 3 illustrates a hierarchical view of a database management system in  
14 accordance with the present invention; and

15                   Figure 4 illustrates a flowchart of a method for allowing a third party client  
16 application to influence how a high-level document command is implemented in the  
17 database of Figure 3.

1                                    **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

2            The present invention extends to both methods and systems for allowing a third  
3 party client application to influence how a high-level document command is implemented  
4 in a database. Appropriate third party client applications are notified when particular high-  
5 level document commands are received in the database management system. However,  
6 before implementing the high-level document command in the database, the database  
7 management system awaits for any instructions from the appropriate third party application  
8 on how the high-level document command is to be implemented.

9            If there are no such intervening instructions, the high-level document command is  
10 implemented in the database. If there are such intervening instructions, these intervening  
11 instructions from the third party client applications are considered in how the high-level  
12 document command is implemented. For example, the intervening instruction may be to  
13 prevent the implementation of the high-level document command entirely. It may also be  
14 to alter the way that the high-level document command is implemented. A third party  
15 client application may also have the database management system perform high-level  
16 document commands in addition to the original high-level document command. When  
17 performing additional high-level operations, all of the high-level operations may be  
18 performed atomically in a single group operation so that either all of the high-level  
19 operations in the group operation are performed, or none are performed at all.

20           The embodiments of the present invention may comprise a special purpose or  
21 general purpose computer including various computer hardware, as discussed in greater  
22 detail below. Embodiments within the scope of the present invention also include  
23 computer-readable media for carrying or having computer-executable instructions or data  
24 structures stored thereon. Such computer-readable media can be any available media

1 which can be accessed by a general purpose or special purpose computer. By way of  
2 example, and not limitation, such computer-readable media can comprise physical storage  
3 media such as RAM, ROM, EEPROM, CD-ROM or other optical disk storage, magnetic  
4 disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium which can be used to  
5 carry or store desired program code means in the form of computer-executable instructions  
6 or data structures and which can be accessed by a general purpose or special purpose  
7 computer.

8 When information is transferred or provided over a network or another  
9 communications connection (either hardwired, wireless, or a combination of hardwired or  
10 wireless) to a computer, the computer properly views the connection as a computer-  
11 readable medium. Thus, any such a connection is properly termed a computer-readable  
12 medium. Combinations of the above should also be included within the scope of  
13 computer-readable media. Computer-executable instructions comprise, for example,  
14 instructions and data which cause a general purpose computer, special purpose computer,  
15 or special purpose processing device to perform a certain function or group of functions.

16 Figure 2 and the following discussion are intended to provide a brief, general  
17 description of a suitable computing environment in which the invention may be  
18 implemented. Although not required, the invention will be described in the general context  
19 of computer-executable instructions, such as program modules, being executed by  
20 computers in network environments. Generally, program modules include routines,  
21 programs, objects, components, data structures, etc. that perform particular tasks or  
22 implement particular abstract data types. Computer-executable instructions, associated  
23 data structures, and program modules represent examples of the program code means for  
24 executing steps of the methods disclosed herein. The particular sequence of such

1 executable instructions or associated data structures represent examples of corresponding  
2 acts for implementing the functions described in such steps.

3 Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention may be practiced in  
4 network computing environments with many types of computer system configurations,  
5 including personal computers, hand-held devices, multi-processor systems,  
6 microprocessor-based or programmable consumer electronics, network PCs,  
7 minicomputers, mainframe computers, and the like. The invention may also be practiced  
8 in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by local and remote  
9 processing devices that are linked (either by hardwired links, wireless links, or by a  
10 combination of hardwired or wireless links) through a communications network. In a  
11 distributed computing environment, program modules may be located in both local and  
12 remote memory storage devices.

13 With reference to Figure 2, an exemplary system for implementing the invention  
14 includes a general purpose computing device in the form of a conventional computer 220,  
15 including a processing unit 221, a system memory 222, and a system bus 223 that couples  
16 various system components including the system memory 222 to the processing unit 221.  
17 The system bus 223 may be any of several types of bus structures including a memory bus  
18 or memory controller, a peripheral bus, and a local bus using any of a variety of bus  
19 architectures. The system memory includes read only memory (ROM) 224 and random  
20 access memory (RAM) 225. A basic input/output system (BIOS) 226, containing the basic  
21 routines that help transfer information between elements within the computer 220, such as  
22 during start-up, may be stored in ROM 224.

23 The computer 220 may also include a magnetic hard disk drive 227 for reading  
24 from and writing to a magnetic hard disk 239, a magnetic disk drive 228 for reading from



1 or writing to a removable magnetic disk 229, and an optical disk drive 230 for reading  
2 from or writing to removable optical disk 231 such as a CD-ROM or other optical media.  
3 The magnetic hard disk drive 227, magnetic disk drive 228, and optical disk drive 230 are  
4 connected to the system bus 223 by a hard disk drive interface 232, a magnetic disk drive-  
5 interface 233, and an optical drive interface 234, respectively. The drives and their  
6 associated computer-readable media provide nonvolatile storage of computer-executable  
7 instructions, data structures, program modules and other data for the computer 220.  
8 Although the exemplary environment described herein employs a magnetic hard disk 239,  
9 a removable magnetic disk 229 and a removable optical disk 231, other types of computer  
10 readable media for storing data can be used, including magnetic cassettes, flash memory  
11 cards, digital video disks, Bernoulli cartridges, RAMs, ROMs, and the like.

12 Program code means comprising one or more program modules may be stored on  
13 the hard disk 239, magnetic disk 229, optical disk 231, ROM 224 or RAM 225, including  
14 an operating system 235, one or more application programs 236, other program modules  
15 237, and program data 238. A user may enter commands and information into the  
16 computer 220 through keyboard 240, pointing device 242, or other input devices (not  
17 shown), such as a microphone, joy stick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like.  
18 These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 221 through a  
19 serial port interface 246 coupled to system bus 223. Alternatively, the input devices may  
20 be connected by other interfaces, such as a parallel port, a game port or a universal serial  
21 bus (USB). A monitor 247 or another display device is also connected to system bus 223  
22 via an interface, such as video adapter 248. In addition to the monitor, personal computers  
23 typically include other peripheral output devices (not shown), such as speakers and  
24 printers.

1 The computer 220 may operate in a networked environment using logical  
2 connections to one or more remote computers, such as remote computers 249a and 249b.  
3 Remote computers 249a and 249b may each be another personal computer, a server, a  
4 router, a network PC, a peer device or other common network node, and typically include  
5 many or all of the elements described above relative to the computer 220, although only  
6 memory storage devices 250a and 250b and their associated application programs 236a and  
7 236b have been illustrated in Figure 2. The logical connections depicted in Figure 2  
8 include a local area network (LAN) 251 and a wide area network (WAN) 252 that are  
9 presented here by way of example and not limitation. Such networking environments are  
10 commonplace in office-wide or enterprise-wide computer networks, intranets and the  
11 Internet.

12 When used in a LAN networking environment, the computer 220 is connected to  
13 the local network 251 through a network interface or adapter 253. When used in a WAN  
14 networking environment, the computer 220 may include a modem 254, a wireless link, or  
15 other means for establishing communications over the wide area network 252, such as the  
16 Internet. The modem 254, which may be internal or external, is connected to the system  
17 bus 223 via the serial port interface 246. In a networked environment, program modules  
18 depicted relative to the computer 220, or portions thereof, may be stored in the remote  
19 memory storage device. It will be appreciated that the network connections shown are  
20 exemplary and other means of establishing communications over wide area network 252  
21 may be used.

22 Figure 3 illustrates a database management system 300 in accordance with the  
23 present invention. Although, not required, the database management system 300 may be  
24 implemented in the computing environment shown in Figure 2. The database application

1 320 issues high-level document commands such as command 321. The document  
2 command may be, for example, to move, update, copy, add, or delete the document. For  
3 each high-level document command, the database management system 300 notifies, via  
4 notification module 350, the appropriate client applications(s).

5 However, in contrast to the prior art database management system, the database  
6 management system 300 includes a means for allowing one or more client applications to  
7 affect how the received high-level document is to be implemented, if at all, in the database.  
8 This means is illustrates in Figure 3 as the instruction receiver module 360 which may be  
9 implemented by software, hardware, or a combination of software and hardware. The  
10 instruction receiver module may be implemented separately or perhaps by the database  
11 engine 330, the database application 320, another component of the database management  
12 system, or a combination thereof.

13 Figure 4 illustrates a flowchart of a method 400 for allowing third party  
14 applications to influence the implementation of a high-level document commands in a  
15 database. Acts implemented by the database management system are listed under the  
16 column entitled "DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM" while those act performed by  
17 the client application are listed under the column entitled "CLIENT APPLICATION."

18 The method is initiated by the database management system receiving a high-level  
19 document command (act 401). The command is high-level in the sense that the command  
20 is for an operation to be performed on a document. The document is an entity such as an  
21 electronic mail message or a folder, which is identifiable at the high-level of the client  
22 application that is using the database management system. Such high-level applications  
23 typically have no knowledge of the tables in the database or how such tables would be  
24

1 altered to implement the high-level document command. Thus, tables in databases are not  
2 considered to be “documents” in this description and in the claims.

3 After the database management system receives the high-level command, but  
4 before implementing the high-level command, the database management system allows  
5 third party client applications to affect how the high-level document command is  
6 implemented in the database. Accordingly, embodiments within the scope of the present  
7 invention include the database management system implementing a step for allowing one  
8 or more client applications to affect how the high-level document command is  
9 implemented, if at all (step 402). In the example shown in Figure 4, this step includes acts  
10 403, 404, 407 and 408.

11 For the received high-level document command, the database management system  
12 identifies any client applications that are to be notified when the database management  
13 system receives the high-level document command (act 403). These client applications  
14 may be identified by being client applications that are notified by default when the  
15 database management system receives a high-level document command meeting specified  
16 criteria. Alternatively or in addition, client applications may be identified by having a  
17 subscription for notifications to occur when the database management system receives  
18 high-level document commands meeting specified criteria.

19 Once identified, the client applications are notified of the receipt of the high-level  
20 document command (act 404). This may be performed via messaging over a network if the  
21 database management system and the client application are located on different machines.  
22 Also, this may be performed by the notification being passed through a function call as  
23 when the database management system and the client application are located on the same  
24 machine.

1           The client application then receives the notification (act 405) and then dispatches  
2 instructions back to the database management system (act 406) on how to implement the  
3 high-level document command. For example, the client application may instruct the  
4 prevention of the implementation altogether, or perhaps how the high-level document  
5 command is implemented, or perhaps even what additional high-level document  
6 commands are to perform in addition to the received high-level document command. The  
7 database management system then receives these implementation instructions (act 407) and  
8 then follows the instructions when actually implementing the high-level document  
9 command (act 408).

10           The implementation instruction may be prevented from being implemented  
11 altogether if so instructed. For example, suppose that a client application is to be notified  
12 when a high-level document command is received that is for adding a new electronic mail  
13 message into an electronic inbox, the electronic mail message containing certain offensive  
14 words. Now suppose that such a high-level document command is, in fact, received at the  
15 database management system. The client application will thus be notified. The client  
16 application may dispatch instructions to prevent the high-level document command from  
17 being implemented at all. The user may have configured the client application to so  
18 instruct the database management system to prevent implementation in this case so as to  
19 avoid having to encounter offensive words.

20           The implementation instruction may be for changing the way that the high-level  
21 document command is implemented. For example, instead of preventing the addition of  
22 electronic mail messages that contain certain offensive words, the user may have  
23 configured the client application to instruct the database management system to type over  
24

1 the offensive words with random alphanumeric text before adding the electronic mail  
2 message into the inbox.

3 The implementation instruction may also be to perform one or more high-level  
4 document commands in addition to the received high-level document command. For  
5 example, the user may configure the client application to instruct the database management  
6 system so that any electronic mail message being marked as “urgent” are not only added to  
7 the user’s inbox, but also are copied to the in-box of the user’s staff, and the in-box of the  
8 user’s supervisor as well.

9 When performing additional high-level document commands over and above the  
10 received high-level document commands, the document commands may be implemented  
11 as a “group operation” in which all of the document commands are implemented in a  
12 single transaction, all of the high-level document command being implemented, or none at  
13 all. Group operations are described in co-pending United States application serial number  
14 [NOT YET ASSIGNED – ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER 13768.171], filed on the  
15 same date herewith, and entitled “METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PERFORMING  
16 HIGH-LEVEL GROUP OPERATIONS IN A DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM”,  
17 which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

18 As described above, the principles of the present invention allow for third party  
19 client applications to influence how a high-level document command is to be implemented.  
20 This give more control to client applications that desire to tailor how certain high-level  
21 document commands are to be implemented.

22 The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing  
23 from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered  
24 in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is,

1 therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. All  
2 changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be  
3 embraced within their scope.

4 What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:  
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1           1.     In a database management system that includes a database engine that  
2 accesses and updates objects in a database, the database engine receiving high-level  
3 document commands, each high-level document command for performing an operation on  
4 a document that is associated with a plurality of tables in the database, a method for  
5 allowing client applications to control how a particular high-level document command is  
6 implemented in the database, the method comprising the following:

7                     an act of receiving a high-level document command meeting certain criteria;

8                     an act of identifying one or more client applications that are to be notified  
9 of the implementation of the high-level document command;

10                    an act of notifying the one or more identified client applications that a high-  
11 level document command meeting the certain criteria has been received;

12                    an act of receiving instructions from the one or more client applications on  
13 how to affect the implementation of the high-level document command in the  
14 database; and

15                    an act of following the received instructions when implementing the high-  
16 level document command, or not implementing the high-level document command  
17 at all if the received instructions so indicate.

18  
19           2.     The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the received instructions  
20 are for performing additional high-level document commands in addition to the received  
21 high-level document command.



1           3.       The method in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the additional high-level  
2 document commands and the received high-level document command are implemented  
3 atomically in the database.

4  
5           4.       The method in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the additional high-level  
6 document command and the received high-level document command are implemented  
7 atomically using a group operation.

8  
9           5.       The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the received instructions  
10 are for changing how the high-level document command is to be implemented in the  
11 database.

12  
13           6.       The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the received instructions  
14 are for preventing the high-level document command from being implemented at all in the  
15 database.

16  
17           7.       The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the high-level document  
18 command is for performing an operation on an electronic mail message.

19  
20           8.       The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the high-level document  
21 command is for performing an operation on a folder that contains electronic mail  
22 messages.

1           9.     The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the high-level document  
2 command is for moving a document.

3  
4           10.    The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the high-level document  
5 command is for deleting a document.

6  
7           11.    The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the high-level document  
8 command is for copying a document.

9  
10          12.    The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the high-level document  
11 command is for updating a document.

12  
13          13.    The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the high-level document  
14 command is for adding a document.

15  
16          14.    The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of notifying the  
17 one or more identified client applications comprises an act of transmitting a message to a  
18 machine that hosts the client application, the machine that host the client application being  
19 different than the machine that hosts the database management system.

20  
21          15.    The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of notifying the  
22 one or more identified client applications comprises an act of passing the notification  
23 through a function call to the identified client application, the client application hosted by  
24

1 the same machine as at least the portion of the database management system responsible  
2 for performing the act of notifying the client applications.

3  
4 16. The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of receiving  
5 instructions from the one or more client applications occurs prior to the act of receiving the  
6 high-level document command.

1           17. In a database management system that includes a database engine that  
2 accesses and updates objects in a database, the database engine receiving high-level  
3 document commands, each high-level document command for performing an operation on  
4 a document that is associated with a plurality of tables in the database, a method for  
5 allowing client applications to control how a particular high-level document command is  
6 implemented in the database, the method comprising the following:

7                     an act of receiving a high-level document command meeting certain criteria;

8                     and

9                     a step for allowing one or more client applications to affect how the  
10 received high-level document command is to be implemented, if at all, in the  
11 database.

12  
13           18. The method in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the step for allowing one  
14 or more client applications to affect how the received high-level document command is to  
15 be implemented comprises the following:

16                     an act of identifying one or more client applications that are to be notified  
17 of the implementation of the high-level document command;

18                     an act of notifying the one or more identified client applications that a high-  
19 level document command meeting certain criteria has been received;

20                     an act of receiving instructions from the one or more client applications on  
21 how to affect the implementation of the high-level document command in the  
22 database; and  
23  
24

an act of following the received instructions when implementing the high-level document command, or not implementing the high-level document command at all if the received instructions so indicate.

1           19.     A computer program product for use in a database management system that  
2 includes a database engine that accesses and updates objects in a database, the database  
3 engine receiving high-level document commands, each high-level document command for  
4 performing an operation on a document that is associated with a plurality of tables in the  
5 database, a computer program product for implementing a method for allowing client  
6 applications to control how a particular high-level document command is implemented in  
7 the database, the computer-program product comprising a computer-readable medium that  
8 contains computer-executable instructions for performing the following:

9                     an act of detecting the receipt of a high-level document command meeting  
10 certain criteria;

11                    an act of identifying one or more client applications that are to be notified  
12 of the implementation of the high-level document command;

13                    an act of causing the one or more identified client applications to be notified  
14 that a high-level document command meeting certain criteria has been received;

15                    an act of detecting the receipt of instructions from the one or more client  
16 applications on how to affect the implementation of the high-level document  
17 command in the database; and

18                    an act of following the received instructions when implementing the high-  
19 level document command, or not implementing the high-level document command  
20 at all if the received instructions so indicate.

21  
22           20.     The computer program product in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the  
23 computer-executable instructions for performing the act of following the received  
24

1 instructions comprise computer-executable instructions for performing additional high-  
2 level document commands in addition to the received high level document command.  
3

4 21. The computer program product in accordance with Claim 20, wherein the  
5 computer-executable instructions for performing additional high-level document  
6 commands comprise computer-executable instructions for atomically implementing the  
7 additional high-level document commands and the received high-level document command  
8 in the database.  
9

10 22. The computer program product in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the  
11 computer-executable instructions for performing the act of causing the one or more  
12 identified client applications to be notified comprise computer-executable instructions for  
13 performing an act of causing a message to be transmitted to a machine that hosts the client  
14 application, the machine that host the client application being different than the machine  
15 that hosts the database management system.  
16

17 23. The computer program product in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the  
18 computer-executable instructions for performing the act of causing the one or more  
19 identified client applications to be notified comprise computer-executable instructions for  
20 performing an act of passing the notification through a function call to the identified client  
21 application, the client application hosted by the same machine as the computer-executable  
22 instructions for performing the act of causing the one or more identified client applications  
23 to be notified.  
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24. The computer program product in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the  
computer-readable media comprises one or more physical storage media.



1           25.    A database management system for implementing high-level document  
2 commands for performing an operation on a document, each document being associated  
3 with a plurality of tables in an underlying database, the database management system  
4 comprising:

5                   a database application that is configured to send high-level document  
6 commands;

7                   a notification component that is configured to send a notification to any  
8 identified client application when a given high-level document command is  
9 received by the database management system;

10                  an instruction receiver module that is configured to receive instructions  
11 from the notified third party application on how to implement the high-level  
12 document command; and

13                  a database engine configured to follow the received instructions when  
14 implementing the high-level document command.  
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1           26.     In a client computer system that hosts a client application, a method of  
2 allowing the client application to influence how a high-level document command is  
3 implemented by a database management system in a database, regardless of whether the  
4 database is locally or remotely located, the method comprising the following:

5                     an act of receiving a notification that a high-level document command  
6 meeting certain criteria has been received in the database management system; and

7                     an act of dispatching instructions on how to implement the high-level  
8 document command.



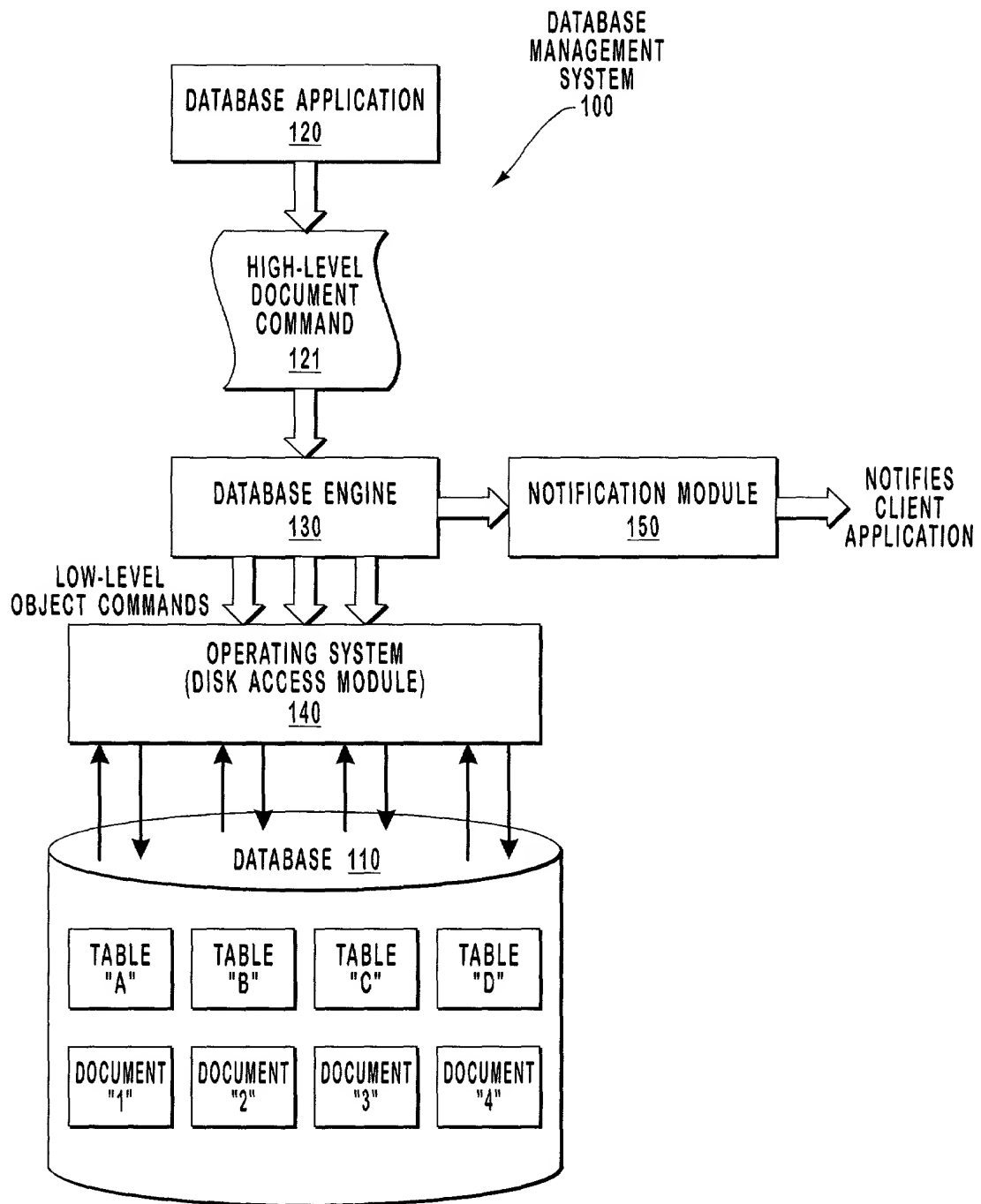
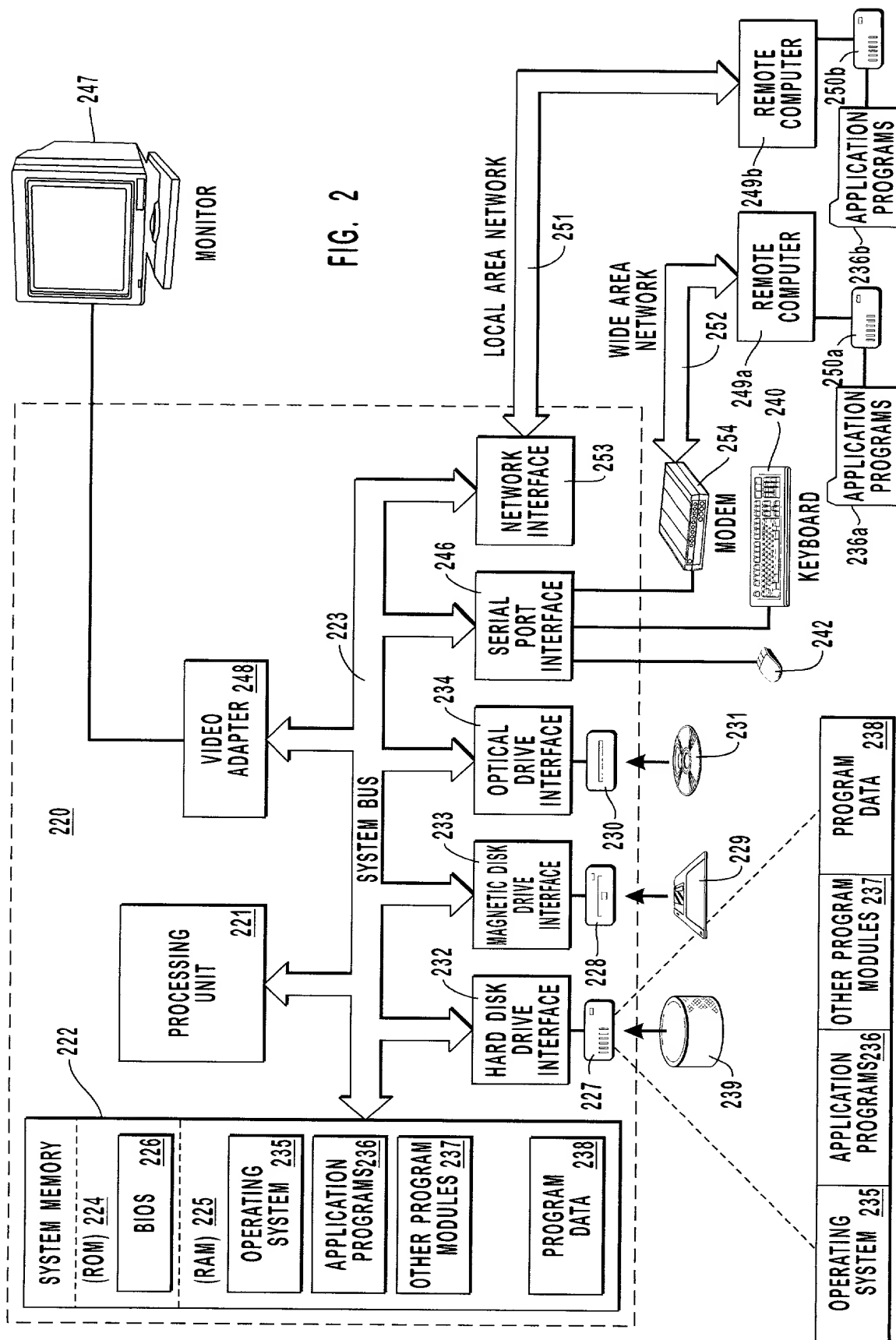


FIG. 1  
(PRIOR ART)



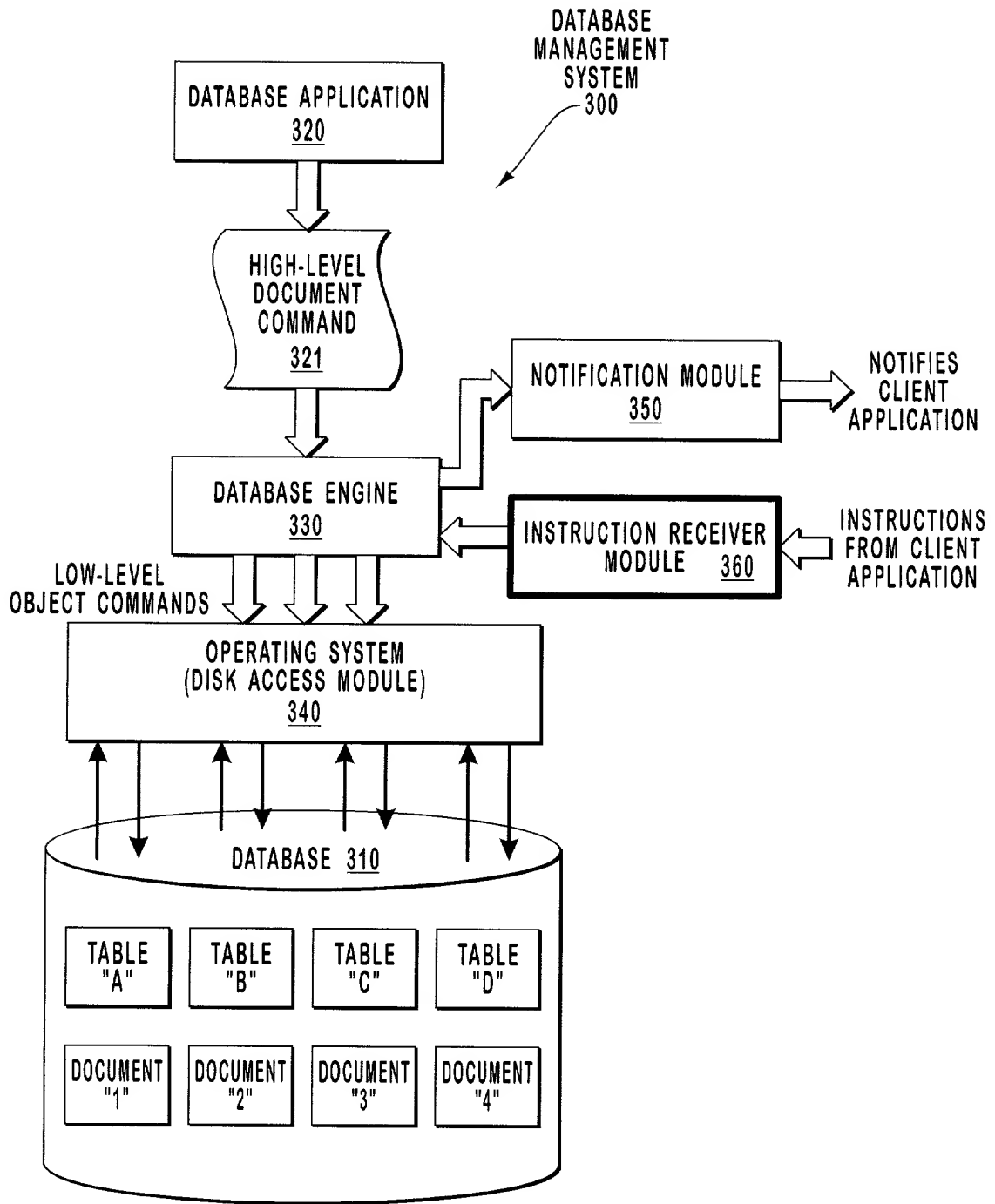


FIG. 3

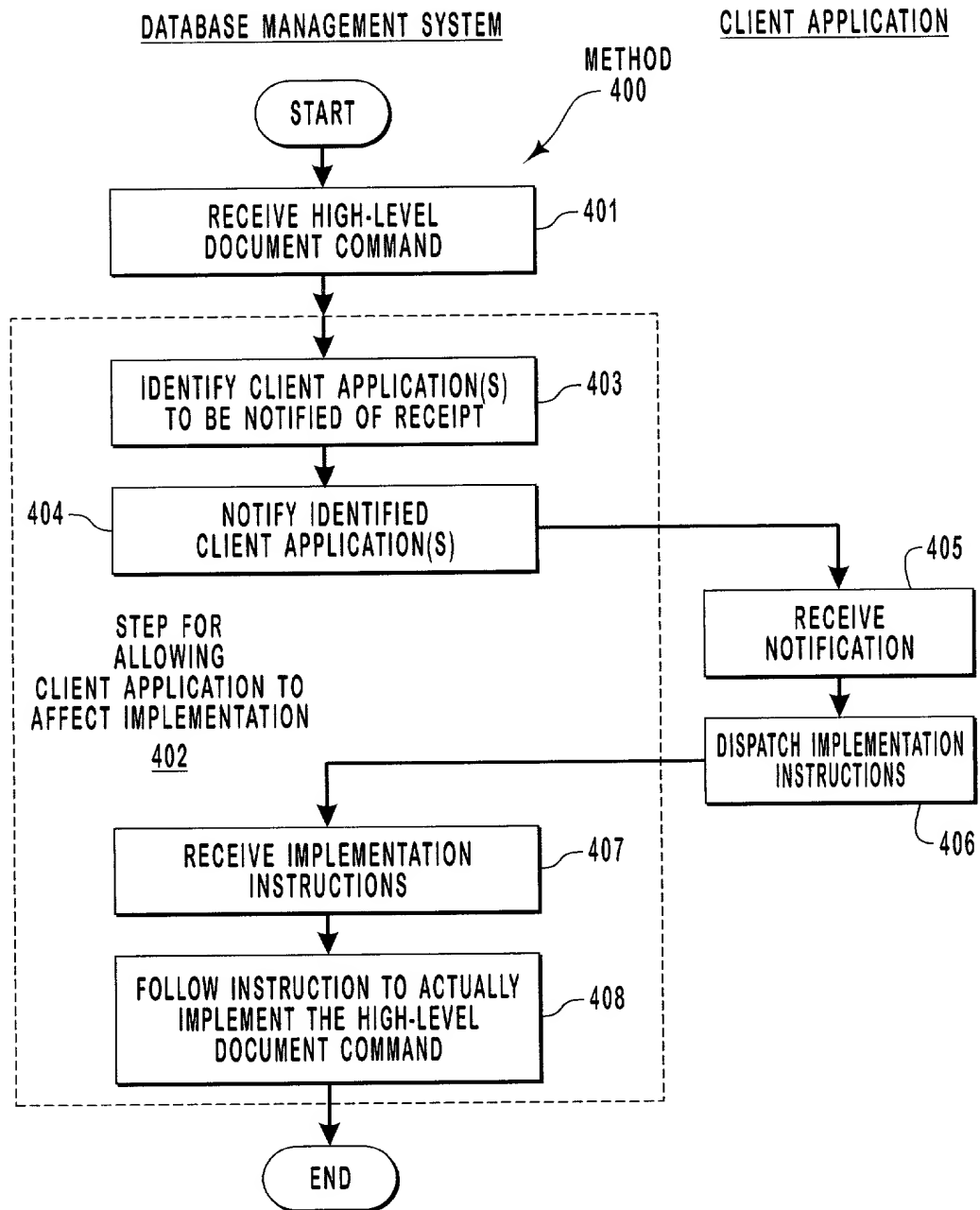


FIG. 4

Express Mailing Label No: EL 550 340 306 US

PATENT APPLICATION  
Docket No: 13768.173

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

I, Jon B. Avner, declare: that I am a citizen of the United States, that my residence and post office address is 17234 SE 40<sup>th</sup> Place, Bellevue, Washington 98008; and I, Soner F. Terek, declare: that I am a citizen of Turkey, that my residence and post office address is 13695 NE 32<sup>nd</sup> Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005; that we verily believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter of the invention or discovery entitled "METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR ALLOWING THIRD PARTY CLIENT APPLICATIONS TO INFLUENCE IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGH-LEVEL DOCUMENT COMMANDS," for which a patent is sought

and which is described and claimed in the specification attached hereto;

and that we acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Section 1.56(a) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

We declare further that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

We hereby appoint as our attorneys and/or patent agents all listed under Customer No. 022913; and DANIEL D. CROUSE, Registration No. 32,022; and KATIE SAKO, Registration No. 32,628, of MICROSOFT CORPORATION, One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington 98052,



with full power to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. All correspondence and telephonic communications should be directed to:

RICK D. NYDEGGER  
WORKMAN, NYDEGGER & SEELEY  
1000 Eagle Gate Tower  
60 East South Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Wherefore, we pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Signed at Redmond, Washington this 4 day of October, 2000.

Inventor: 

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